

December 17, 2021

[Isaiah 9:2-7](#)

I recently read that this passage of Isaiah was like a modern-day birth announcement. I am sure many of us have received such cards in the mail with an adorable picture of a newly born baby along with the child's name, height, and weight. If we think of this passage as an ancient birth announcement, it is a bit embarrassing that Isaiah sent it way too early. About 700 years too early.

Imagine reading these words - that one day a child would be born who would reign forever. Then imagine living in that waiting and the dream not being fulfilled within your lifetime.

It could have been disappointing, but I think that these words of Isaiah might have given the people something to hope for. A glimpse of the light that was to come. Many of us are waiting for something, and there is a big difference between waiting without hope and waiting with hope.

In this passage, Isaiah gives hope by sharing and naming the character of who this child will grow up to become. Four names are given: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. These names are indicative of how the Messiah will exist in their world. When Jesus is born, he is not a distant deity but one who counsels and tends to his people. He is mighty with divine power showcased in many miracles. Jesus' reign does not end; rather, Jesus is still the everlasting ruler who cares for us. And lastly, Jesus comes to bring peace - not only to our world but to our hearts as well.

Many of us might be waiting for something. We might find ourselves in dark places where all seems lost. How can these words of Isaiah provide some light and hope into your life?

This day, be reminded that we are called to wait with hope because we place our hope in the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace. Amen.

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